



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,475	06/16/2001	Eric Harold Henrikson	42430-10455	1203

7590 07/17/2003
Patent Docket Clerk
Jenner & Block LLC
One IBM Plaza
Chicago, IL 60611

EXAMINER

ENG, GEORGE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2643

DATE MAILED: 07/17/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,475

Applicant(s)

HENRIKSON, ERIC HAROLD

Examiner

George Eng

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4-8 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kannes (US PAT. 5,382,972).

Regarding claim 1, Kannes discloses a method for selecting a primary video image for displaying on a large picture region from a plurality of video image in a conference system that supports conference calls including an audio portion and video portion comprising the steps of determining an amount of audio signal generated by each participant of a plurality of participant, selecting a dominating audio participant, i.e., a speaker, from the plurality of participants based upon the amount of audio data generated by each participant of the plurality of participants, and selecting a primary video based on the dominating audio participant (col. 5 line 25 through col. 6 line 48 and col. 13 lines 37-58).

Regarding claim 4, Kannes discloses that the primary video image (200, figure 4A) is larger than a plurality of remaining video images of the plurality of video images (201-204, figure 4A).

Art Unit: 2643

Regarding claim 5, Kannes teaches the step of maintaining the primary video image for at least a predetermined period of time (col. 15 lines 53-68).

Regarding claim 6, Kannes discloses a method for selecting a primary video image for displaying on a large picture region from a plurality of video image in a conference system that supports conference calls including an audio portion and video portion comprising the steps of determining an amount of audio signal generated by each participant of a plurality of participant, determining whether a difference between an amount of audio data generated by one participant of the plurality of participants and an amount of audio data generated by other participants of the plurality of participants exceeds a predetermined threshold, selecting a dominating audio participant from the plurality of participants based upon the amount of audio signal generated by each of the plurality of participants if the difference exceeds the predetermined threshold and selecting a primary video based on the dominating audio participant (col. 5 line 25 through col. 6 line 48, col. 13 lines 37-58 and col. 15 line 40 through col. 16 line 16).

Regarding claim 7, Kannes teaches the dominating audio participant, i.e., the speaker, generating an amount of audio data that exceeds an amount of audio data generated by each of a plurality of remaining participants of the plurality of participants (col. 5 line 67 through col. 6 line 4).

Regarding claim 8, Kannes teaches the steps of determining a loudness of audio for each participant of the plurality of participants if the difference does not exceed the predetermined threshold and selecting the dominating audio participant based on the loudness for each participant of the plurality of participants (col. 16 line 1-16).

Art Unit: 2643

Regarding claim 11, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 4.

Regarding claim 12, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 5.

Regarding claim 13, Kannes discloses an apparatus for selecting a primary video image for displaying on a large picture region from a plurality of video image in a conference system that supports conference calls including an audio portion and video portion comprising first processing means for determining an amount of audio signal generated by each participant of a plurality of participant, second processing means selecting a dominating audio participant, i.e., a speaker, from the plurality of participants based upon the amount of audio data generated by each participant of the plurality of participants, and third processing means selecting a primary video based on the dominating audio participant (col. 5 line 25 through col. 6 line 48 and col. 13 lines 37-58).

Regarding claims 14-15, Kannes teaches a computer (68) including the first processing means, the second processing means and the third processing means for implementing automatic video signal selection operation (col. 15 line 40 through col. 16 line 16).

Regarding claim 16, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2643

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-5, 9-10, 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kannes (US PAT. 5,382,972) in view of Iizawa (US PAT. 5,801,756).

Kannes differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching to determine an amount of audio data by counting a number of audio samples in audio packets generated by each participant of the plurality of participants. However, Iizawa discloses a multipoint video conference system utilizing a counter table for counting audio samples in audio packets generated by each participant of a plurality of participants in order to simply and efficiently of selecting speaker (col. 3 line 46 through col. 5 line 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kannes in determining the amount of audio data by counting the number of audio samples in audio packets generated by each participant of the plurality of participants, as per teaching of Iizawa, because it makes simply and efficiently of selecting speaker.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Mitsui (JP 2001-092434A) discloses information processor for switching over and selecting one in several registration images as selection image based on level of acquired audio signal (abstract).

Art Unit: 2643

Maeng et al. (US PAT. 5,991,277) discloses a method for determining a talk or listen state using voice detection (abstract).

Tischler et al. (US PAT. 5,768,263) discloses a method for a talk or listen state determination in multipoint conferencing system (abstract).

Uesugi et al. (JP 04-373,385A) discloses a device for automatic picking up speaker image (abstract).

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, V.A., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is 703-308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4870. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-6306.

Art Unit: 2643

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Eng".

George Eng

Examiner

Art Unit 2643